

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 FMC-01

INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-03 AID-05 XMB-02

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R 141030Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7866

USDOC WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

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USDOC PASS MARITIME ADMINISTRATION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT, ELTN, EAID, EGEN, TZ, ZA

SUBJECT: INCREASING INFLOW OF ZAMBIAN CARGOES LOOKS
TO CONGEST DAR PORT AGAIN

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 2972 (12/4/74)

1. SUMMARY: AS CONGESTION GROWS IN OTHER PORTS
SERVING ZAMBIA, GOZ, ACCORDING TO SHIPPING LINE REP,
IS STARTING TO TRANSHIP MORE IMPORTS THROUGH DAR
PORT. INFLOW FOR ZAMBIA LOOKS TO GROW TO NEAR-RECORD
TONNAGES AND CREATE, AGAIN, A DIFFICULT PORT
MANAGEMENT PROBLEM HERE. DOUBT SITUATION WILL
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DECLINE TO POSITION PORT WAS IN DURING MUCH OF

1974 AS PORT MANAGEMENT HAS IMPROVED, VOLUME TANZANIAN IMPORTS (APART FROM FLUCTUATIONS IN FOOD IMPORTS) HAVE DECLINED, AND, HOPEFULLY, TAZARA WILL BE OPERATIONAL TO MPKIA BY MID-YEAR TO HELP RELIEVE SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

2. ON APRIL 23 RESREP (KRAMER) FOR DUTCH SHIPPING LINES, WHO WAS RECENTLY IN LUSAKA TO DISCUSS TRADE OUTLOOK AND PORTS TO BE USED TO TRANSHIP ZAMBIAN IMPORTS WITH GOZ OFFICIALS, REVIEWED PRESENT DAR PORT SITUATION AND PROSPECTS WITH EMBOFF. HE STATED THAT WITH NINE SHIPS WAITING OUTSIDE PORT TO BERTH IT OBVIOUS CONGESTION PROBLEM RETURNING AGAIN TO DAR PORT. NEARLY TWO MONTHS AGO GOZ TOOK DECISION TO CONSIGN MORE IMPORTS THROUGH DAR AS OTHER OUTPORTS FOR ZAMBIA BECAME CONGESTED. AS RESULT, THERE IS BACKLOG OF ZAMBIAN CARGOES NOW PILING UP HERE. TWO WEEKS AGO ZAMBIAN IMPORTS HELD HERE WERE 15,000 TONS AND THAT FIGURE WAS EXPECTED TO GROW BY 5,000 TONS LAST WEEK (PORT FIGURES FOR LAST WEEK NOT YET AVAILABLE).

3. KRAMER, WHOSE ESTIMATES ARE ALWAYS CAREFULLY PREPARED FOR HIS SUPERIORS IN ROTTERDAM, PREDICTS THAT ZAMBIAN IMPORTS NOW BEING SHIPPED FROM OVERSEAS PORTS WILL CAUSE ZAMBIAN THROUGHOUT IN DAR TO SWELL TO BETWEEN 25-30,000 TONS PER MONTH, WHICH WILL BE MODERATELY BELOW PEAK REGISTERED LAST SUMMER WHEN DAR PORT CONGESTION PROBLEM WAS AT ITS WORST. CONSEQUENTLY PORT AREA, WHICH WAS IN REMARKABLE STATE OF GOOD ORDER FOR SEVERAL MONTHS (SEE REFTEL) IS SHOWING SIGNS OF OVERFLOWING AGAIN. IN ADDITION THERE IS CIRCA 65,000 TONS OF ZAMBIAN FERTILIZER IMPORTS JUST STARTING TO BE PASSED THROUGH DAR AND THEY CAN CLOG PORT FURTHER. GOZ OFFICIALS TOLD KRAMER THAT TAZARA IS SUPPOSED TO CARRY FERTILIZER WEST BUT NEITHER HE NOR WE SEE LITTLE HELP FROM THAT SOURCE UNTIL RAILROAD'S CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM IS FINISHED.

4. AS FOOTNOTE TO FOREGOING, EMBOFF TRAVELING ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTS OF TANZAM ROAD DURING FIRST WEEK APRIL NOTED DISTINCT DECLINE IN NUMBER OF TRUCKS CARRYING ZAMBIAN CARGOES AS COMPARED WITH YEAR AGO. DIFFERENCE SEEMS TO BE ACCOUNTED FOR BY ABSENCE OF KENYAN-REGISTERED TRUCKS AS RESULT TANZANIAN ORDER TO LIMIT USE OF NORTHERN ROADS TO TRUCKS UNDER 18.75 TONS. (LUSAKA MAY WISH TO COMMENT ON SIZE OF ZAMBIAN LIFT CAPACITY BY ROAD AND RAIL OUT OF DAR AND ABILITY GOZ

TO SHIFT ROAD TRANSPORT ONTO TANZAM ROUTE.) EMBOFF
ALSO NOTED ON FIELD TRIP THAT DIFFICULT 18-MILE
LENGTH OF ROAD (WHICH IS, IN PART, UNDERGOING
TORTUROUSLY-SLOW RESURFACING) WEST OF MUKUMI AND
SEVERAL STRETCHES, PARTICULARLY ALONG CIRCA 60-MILE
STRETCH BETWEEN JOHN'S CORNER AND MAKAMBAKO, SHOW
EARLY RPT EARLY SIGNS OF ROAD BREAKING UP, AND UNLESS
SITUATION CORRECTED, DECLINE IN QUALITY OF ROAD SURFACE COULD
CONTRIBUTE TO LONGER TURN-AROUND TIMES BETWEEN DAR
AND KABWE/LUSAKA.

5. COMMENT: AS GLOOMY AS THIS FORECAST IS, AFTER
SEVERAL MONTHS RECENTLY OF RELATIVELY QUICK BERTHING
FOR SHIPS CALLING AT DAR, SITUATION MAY NOT
BECOME AGAIN AS BAD AS IT WAS DURING MOST OF 1974. TOP-LEVEL
PORT MANAGEMENT HAS IMPROVED (ALTHOUGH "AT SHIPS
SIDE" MANAGEMENT STILL LEAVES MUCH TO BE DESIRED)
AND INFLOW OF TANZANIAN MERCHANDISE IMPORTS IS MUCH
LESS THAN LAST YEAR AND DECLINING. BY JULY 1975, IF
TAZARA IS OPERATIONAL TO MPIKA AS ANTICIPATED, OFF-TAKE
OF ZAMBIAN CARGOES SHOULD IMPROVE. HOWEVER, THERE
IS ONE WORRISOME POSSIBILITY--IF INCOMING TANZANIAN
FOODGRAIN SHIPMENTS BUNCH UP ON ARRIVAL, AS THEY
DID IN MARCH, THEN PORT COULD TUMBLE INTO PERIOD OF
SERIOUS CONGESTION. ALSO, FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONSTRAINTS
MAY, PERHAPS, REDUCE QUANTITIES OF SPARES AVAILABLE
FOR REPAIRING PORT HANDLING EQUIPMENT. UNSERVICEABLE
EQUIPMENT, ALWAYS A SERIOUS PROBLEM, COULD REDUCE
SHIPS DISCHARGE RATES DRAMATICALLY.

6. FYI FOR LUSAKA: RE PARA 4. EMBOFF, WHILE
TRAVELING ON TANZAM ROAD, NOTICED MANY, PERHAPS TWO
DOZEN, NEW YELLOW GMC TRACTORS PULLING NEW, APPAR-
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ENTLY FRENCH-MADE, FRUEHAUF TRAILERS. ASSUME THESE
ARE FROM THOSE ORDERED UNDER ABORTED TAW CONTRACT.
CARTER

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